Year	Foreign Exchange (M.US $)
1999-2000	245.55
2000-2001	203.55
2001-2002	189.04

Source: Tobacco Board

(d) and (e) The Central Tobacco Research Institute has a research station in Hunsur, Karnataka, which caries out research on tobacco cultivation in the State. In addition, the Agricultural Research Station at Shimoga, which is attached to the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, has also been associated with research in the cultivation of this crop.

Functions of ITPO

1368. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO);

(b) whether its existence has helped to increase exports in various fields;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the benefits reaped out of its existence during the last three years; and

(d) the details of foreign fairs conducted by ITPO during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is the premier trade promotion agency of India and provides a broad spectrum of services to trade and industry so as to promote India's exports. These services include organisation of trade fairs and exhibitions in India and abroad, Byer-Seller Meets, Contact Promotion Programmes apart from information dissemination on products and markets. Briefly, ITPO have been providing the following services in recent times:

(i) Each year 20,000 Indian exporters are being served.

(ii) Over 1000 Indian companies participate in trade fairs and exhibitions organized by ITPO abroad.

(iii) Over 1500 importers/organizations are being serviced by ITPO's foreign offices annually..

(iv) Each year about 50 exhibitions are being organized by ITPO and other fair organizers in Pragati Maidan to display India's capabilities in different fields.

(v) About 50 developmental programmes such as, Trade Fairs/ Ehibitions, Buyer-Seller Meets, Contact Promotion Programmes, Product Promotion Programmes etc. are being organized by ITPO annuity.

It is not possible to quantify the increase in exports exclusively as a result of activities of ITPO. Nonetheless, the above spectrum of activities has a catalytic effect on the growth of India's exports.

(d) During the past three years, ITPO organized following number of events abroad:—

Year	NO. of events
1999-2000	54
2000-2001	51
2001-2002	46

Coffee Retention Plan

1369. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has finalised the modalities for implementation of the Coffee Retention plan, approved in principle by Government; and

(b) what are the details of the modalities finalised by the Coffee Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.This is in view of the fact that in September. 2001 the Coffee Retention Plan